

Week Ending Friday, September 6, 2002

**Proclamation 7587—National
Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month,
2002**

August 30, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

During National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Americans renew their commitment to learning more about the causes of this deadly disease, so that we can detect it early and treat it effectively.

Ovarian cancer continues to cause more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system. It is estimated that this year alone, more than 23,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and that almost 14,000 women will die from this disease. In cases where ovarian cancer is found and treated in its earliest stages, the 5-year survival rate is 95 percent. However, most women who suffer from this cancer are not diagnosed until it has become more advanced, because their symptoms may be easily confused with other diseases. Since early detection and treatment can often mean the difference between life and death, developing an effective screening test is a great priority.

Scientists have identified specific substances in the blood that may help indicate whether a woman has ovarian cancer before she shows any symptoms. Additionally, researchers at the National Cancer Institute and the Food and Drug Administration have been working to develop a new type of blood test that may be able to diagnose this disease, and eventually help save the lives of millions of women. By analyzing protein patterns in a single drop of blood, this test was able to recognize ovarian cancer in both its early and late stages. I join thousands of American women and their families in hoping that this

promising research will help us in overcoming this terrible disease.

By increasing awareness of ovarian cancer and its causes, we can better prepare women who face the threat of this illness. Researchers have learned that age, alterations in genes, and certain hormonal and reproductive factors are linked to ovarian cancer risk. Women and their doctors should weigh all the risks and benefits of different therapies and make informed choices about health care.

I commend the strength and courage of the women who persevere in the face of this serious illness, and I encourage our scientists and researchers to redouble their efforts to find more effective prevention, diagnostic, and treatment strategies to combat ovarian cancer. Additionally, I urge those who suffer from this cancer, and those who may be at risk, to talk with their healthcare providers about participating in clinical trials for new medical therapies designed to combat ovarian cancer. By taking part in these clinical trials, you can make important contributions to the knowledge of this disease and benefit from cutting edge medical research. As we increase awareness of ovarian cancer and advance in our research, we can help bring hope to our citizens and draw closer to winning the war on cancer.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 2002 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of

America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

August 31, 2002

Good morning. In all of the trials we have faced this past year, countless acts of generosity and sacrifice have revealed the good heart of our Nation. Time and time again, our country has shown the strength of its character by responding to acts of evil with acts of good. And in coming weeks, I ask all citizens to answer the call to help those in need and make this month a "September of Service."

I created USA Freedom Corps, a single organization to encourage and assist Americans in finding service opportunities both locally and around the globe, to harness and put to good use the service and idealism we saw after the attacks of September the 11th. In addition, I called on all Americans to enlist in the armies of compassion and dedicate at least 4,000 hours in service to their communities, our country, and to the world.

The response to the call to service has been strong. VolunteerMatch, a group that matches volunteers to charities on the USA Freedom Corps Web page, reports that referrals have increased by more than 70 percent over last year. Requests for Peace Corps volunteer applications have increased 40 percent over the same period last year. Online AmeriCorps applications are up by 95 percent since January. And more than 48,000 individuals have signed up online to participate in the newly created Citizens Corps program.

The response we have seen is more than numbers, though. It is a reminder that when people help each other, our entire Nation benefits. As I have traveled across the country, I have met with volunteers who have set

an example with their uplifting acts of service, volunteers like Maxine Phipps, a 95-year-old Iowan who mentors and tutors local children through an online book club—she uses her computer skills as she and her students read and discuss books about the importance of citizenship—or Star Wallin, a college freshman from Mississippi who founded Project CARE in 1999. Project CARE is an organization that has impacted so many lives through activities such as matching elementary school students with high school mentors, collecting food, clothing, and furniture for impoverished families, and helping to refurbish the grounds of local public schools.

I hope the work of these individuals and that of volunteers all across the country inspires others, especially our young people. Young people have the energy and determination to do important work, and volunteer service can teach them valuable lessons about responsibility, community, and selflessness at an early age.

I urge our teachers and schools to begin service projects and activities in September and to make this new school year the start of a lifelong habit of service to others. In an effort to assist educators and students in getting started, we've developed a new guidebook, CD-ROM, and Web site called Students in Service to America. These resources offer valuable information about planning service activities and working with community groups.

More than 130,000 public and private, elementary and secondary, home schools and after-school programs throughout the country will receive these materials in September. In addition, we will encourage AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers to recruit more young people for service opportunities and to work closely with schools and community organizations to support in-school and after-school programs. Through these efforts, young people will learn how important service is to our Nation and how to get started today.

As September the 11th approaches, difficult memories of planes and buildings will resurface, but so will images of brave individuals coming to the aid of neighbors in need. That spirit of courage and selflessness has